

**Draft
Environmental Assessment
Fort Peck Fisheries Storage Building
July 2013**



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Draft Environmental Assessment
Fort Peck Fisheries Storage Building
MEPA / NEPA Checklist EA

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Site Improvement

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to build 32' x 72' storage building adjacent to an existing fisheries storage building and located on United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) land at Fort Peck, Montana. The building would be maintained and owned by Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

2. Agency authority for the proposed action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is authorized under 87-1-702 Montana Code Annotated (MCA) perform acts necessary to the conduct of fish restoration and management projects, and has the power to enter into cooperative agreements on federal lands with the U.S. Government, as per 87-1-703 MCA. As per 87-1-201 (9)(b): the department shall work to balance maintenance or recovery of a listed species, a sensitive species, or a species that is a potential candidate for listing, with the social and economic impacts of species maintenance or recovery.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will consider the social, economic, and environmental of this action, including soliciting comments on the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-15-8), Corps of Engineers Regulation ER 200-2-2 (33 CFR Part 230) and related environmental regulatory requirements. The federal action associated with this project includes modification of the existing lease, or out-grant, to FWP for the new building site.

3. Name of Project: FWP Fort Peck Fisheries Storage Building

4. Project Sponsor:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 6
54078 Highway 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

5. Anticipated Timeline:

Public Comment Period:	July to August 2013
Decision Notice:	August 2013
Construction:	Fall 2013

6. **Location:** The property is located in Valley County, Montana, Township 26 North, Range 41 East, southwest quarter of Section 9, and on the west side of the Missouri River. The proposed improvements would impact about one half acre within the USACE existing maintenance area.

The proposed site is amidst the USACE maintenance compound and adjacent to the currently used fisheries storage building. From this location, it is approximately: 1.5 miles southeast to the Fort Peck Dam power house; one mile to north Park Grove; 400 yards slightly northwest to the hatchery; about 500 yards southwest to the edge of the Fort Peck residential area; and about 300 yards northeast to the dam tail waters.

Figure 1. Location Map: proximity of proposed Fisheries Storage Building near Fort Peck, Montana (Montana Highway Map).

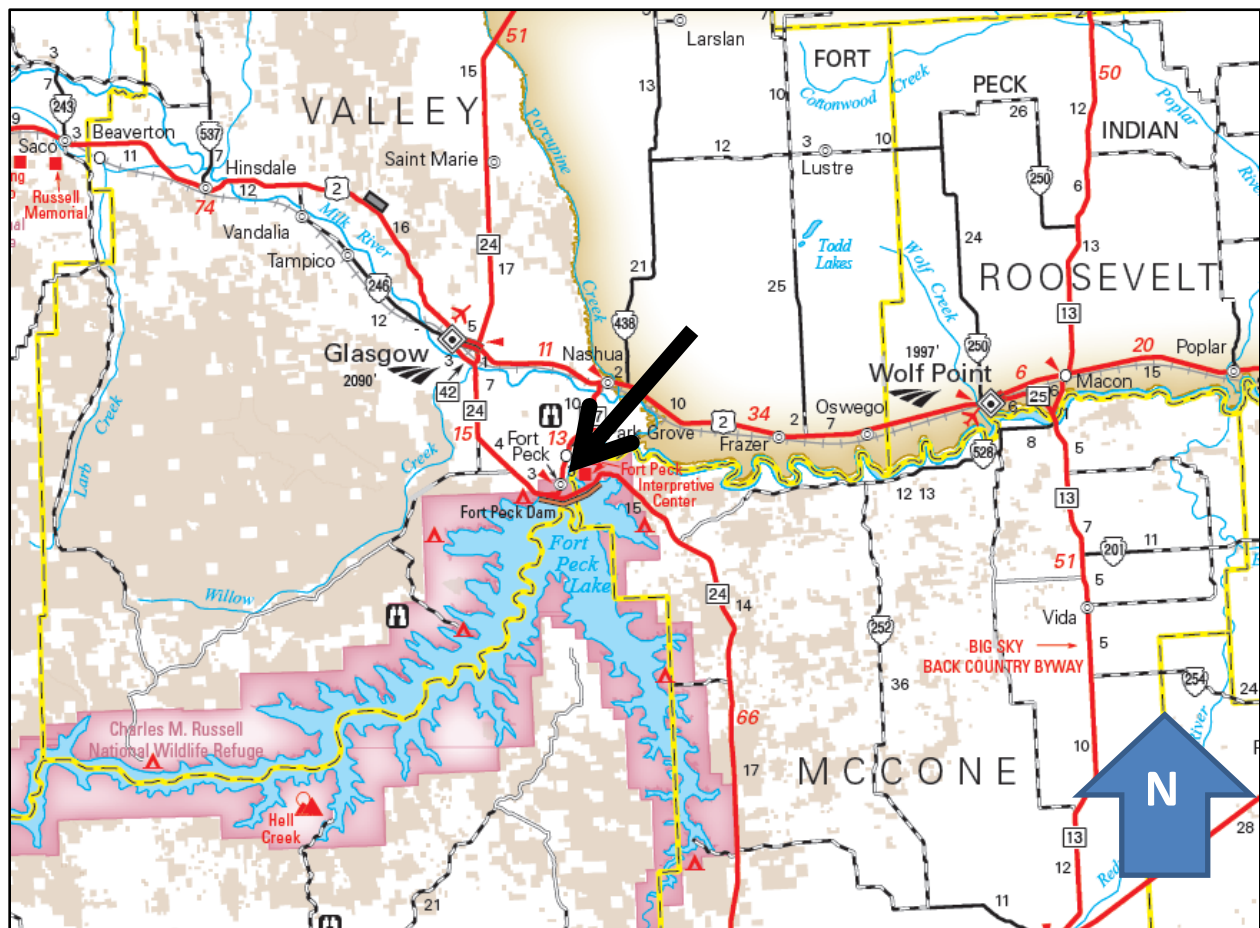


Figure 2: Topographic Map: Proposed location of Fisheries Storage Building near Fort Peck, Montana.

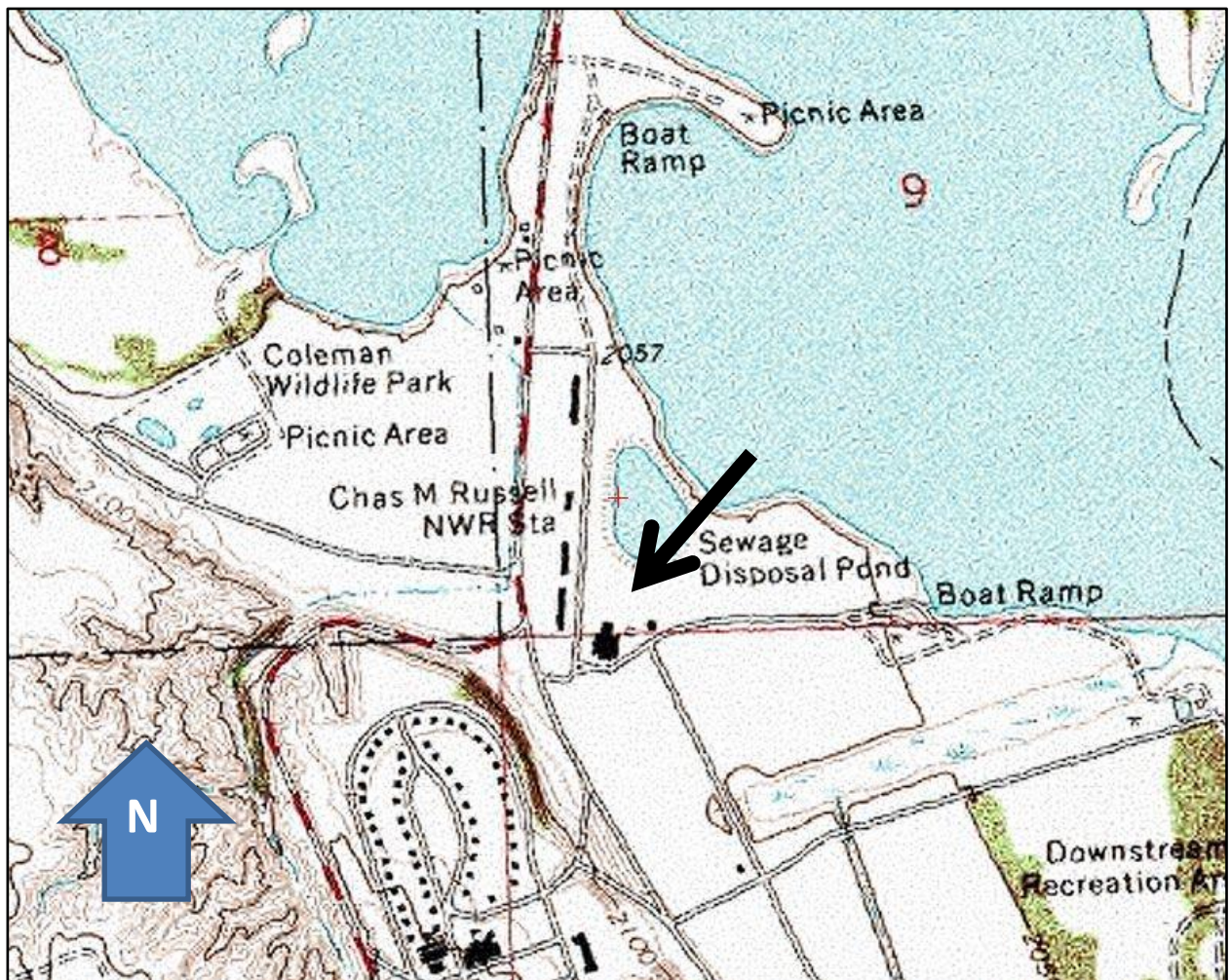


Figure 3. Aerial Photograph: Proposed location of Fisheries Storage Building near Fort Peck, Montana (NRIS 2005).



Figure 4. Approximate location of proposed Fisheries Storage Building looking south. From left to right: USACE and FWP equipment, USACE newer maintenance and enforcement shop/offices (dark roof), FWP leased Butler storage building (grey building center foreground), USACE storage and maintenance shop (white, far right). (Sue Dalbey photo 4/10/13)



7. Project Size:

The table below shows the classifications of the approximately 0.5 acres affected by the proposed project. The entire property was altered in the 1930s during the Fort Peck Dam construction, and is now part of the current USACE maintenance area. This site is outside of mapped flood zones; but floodwaters are now managed by Fort Peck Dam.

	(Affected) <u>Acres</u>		(Affected) <u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain/Riparian	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0.5</u>	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>0</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Riparian Wetlands Areas	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

8. Local, State or Federal agencies with overlapping or additional jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

(all permits would be acquired by FWP or the Contractor prior to construction)

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
Valley County Sanitarian	Sanitation Permit
City of Fort Peck	water & sewer connection approval

(b) Funding:

Total Funding from FWP \$275,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities

<u>Agency Name:</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
State Historic Preservation Office	cultural resources
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District	-lease modification -project approval -cultural resources

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

Purpose and Need

FWP proposes to build a building to securely store equipment related to the management of fisheries in the Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam. The current facility is 80 years old and exposes equipment to weather and rodents, and does not house all equipment. The lifespan of equipment is reduced when open to these conditions and requires more maintenance. Poor equipment conditions and exposure to potential vandalism increases the risk to employees working in moving water and other extreme conditions. Potable water and adequate drainage is critical to cleaning equipment and ensuring aquatic nuisance species are not spread by fisheries equipment.

Proposed Project

FWP proposes to build a 32' by 72' building to store equipment and undertake maintenance activities related to the recovery of pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) in the Missouri River. The proposed site is within the USACE maintenance compound and adjacent to the currently used fisheries storage building. The building would be located on USACE land, but owned and maintained by FWP. A building constructed in the 1930s or '40s is currently being used for storage and is leased at no charge from USACE. The lease agreement would be modified to include the new building area with no additional cost. The ground proposed for building is level and seeded in crested wheat grass.

The lifespan of equipment is greatly diminished when having to endure the sun, snow, wind and rodents. The current building is helpful, but it is not weather-proof or rodent-proof. FWP fisheries crews spend hours repairing nets that have been

gnawed and maintaining equipment to withstand temperatures have historically ranged from 108 to -42 degrees Fahrenheit (weather.com). Several boats, motors, and gear must be stored outside due to lack of indoor space.

The new storage building would have four bays to store trailered boats. In addition, there would be sufficient space to store several motors, nets, pressure sprayer, scales, radio telemetry and other equipment used in managing pallid sturgeon and other fish populations. Potable water would be provided with a connection to Fort Peck City water. This would supply drinking water, staff bathroom and hose bibs for cleaning boats and equipment. The building would have electricity and heat. New wiring would allow welding, which is periodically needed to maintain or build special equipment. Ground source heat would be the preferred heat source for the building, reducing long term costs for regulating the building temperature.

Aquatic nuisance species are an increasing concern in the area. The new facility would provide clean water, concrete wash aprons outside, and contained drainage for washing boats and equipment. This will help reduce the risk of spreading invasive species to area waters and the nearby hatchery.

The new building would use the existing gravel access into the USACE maintenance area and existing interior roads. An existing gate can help reduce traffic into the area and increase security. The new building would close and lock securely.

Construction would include metal siding and roofing, thus maintenance would be minimal. Concrete floors would provide clean work areas and aid in sealing the building from weather and rodents. Pads in front of the two bay doors would provide an outside work area for washing, preparing and repairing equipment. The remaining driveway areas would be gravel surfaced to reduce run-off.

The USACE currently stores equipment and maintenance materials outside the existing fisheries storage building, such as: a crane, latrine, tanks, concrete pads, gravel, garbage collection container, and other supplies. Other buildings in the immediate area serve as storage for semi-trucks, tractor, boat and heavy equipment and repair facilities, as well as maintenance and enforcement staff office space.

FWP has three small sheds that are used to store equipment and protect gear and equipment from the weather already on the USACE property. These sheds and the existing large metal building (Butler Building) would continue to be used for long term storage or for items where temperature extremes and exposure to animals are not as critical.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, a storage building would not be constructed. The fisheries equipment and boats would continue to be stored in an unsealed metal building subject to temperature extremes, leaks and rodents, or stored outside. Equipment would deteriorate at a higher rate than if stored in a temperature regulated facility sealed from weather extremes and animals. If current funds are not used, future funding may not be available to construct a storage building. Funding may be needed to replace equipment prior to its expected life span. Work crews may be at higher risk using equipment that is deteriorating at a faster pace outside and more vulnerable to vandalism. Physical resources would remain unchanged from current conditions.

Preferred Alternative B: Proposed Action to Build New Fisheries Storage Building on the USACE Property

Through the Proposed Action, FWP would build a 32' x 72' storage building with concrete floors, water, sewer, electricity and heat. Four bays would provide space to store boats, equipment and gear, and to maintain equipment necessary in managing the recovery of pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River. Boats and equipment would be maintained in ways that would maximize their life span. Equipment could be enclosed and locked inside to reduce the potential for vandalism and subsequently reduce risks of equipment malfunction. The proposed building size and use would be comparable to other buildings in the immediate vicinity. Access roads to the new facility are in place; traffic would remain similar to existing patterns and quantities.

Alternative C: Construct New Fisheries Storage Building on FWP hatchery Property

Action C would construct a similar building in size and features located adjacent to the Fort Peck Fish Hatchery. The hatchery, however, does not have a large enough area to hold all fisheries boats and equipment. The current Butler Building and some outdoor space on USACE land would continue to be used for storage. Equipment, therefore, would be split among two locations. Multiple storage locations tend to be less efficient, requiring more maintenance and security of two sites, and more difficulty tracking inventory. In addition, increased pedestrian and boat/vehicle traffic near the hatchery increases the risk of disease entering the hatchery system. The risk of aquatic nuisance species entering the hatchery waters also increases due to the hundreds of miles traveled by FWP boats and vehicles annually. This type of infestation could close the hatchery for an indefinite period and result in a severe loss of productivity.

Physical and human impacts of Proposed Alternative B and as described in the EA Checklist portion. Also similar to Alternative B, surface vegetation and soils would be disturbed for construction; soils would be seeded with a local grass mixture to mitigate erosion and restore aesthetic values. Air quality would be minimally impacted by temporary dust during construction. Maintenance costs would be similar to Alternative B, which would be minimized using efficient ground source heating/cooling options in the building. Weeds would be controlled according to the Region 6 and Statewide Weed Management Plan

which integrate chemical, manual and biological controls as appropriate. Building costs would be similar to Alternative B. No cultural impacts would be anticipated due to the pre-disturbed nature of the hatchery area and superficial construction. Views of the hatchery area would be minimally altered when approaching from the south. Other physical and human impacts would be similar to those discussed for Proposed Alternative B.

Due to the risk of spreading ANS and limited space near the hatchery, this Alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

Alternative D: Construct storage building on USACE property near the upper buffalo pasture

This action would construct a similar size building west of the City of Fort Peck where additional USACE maintenance buildings and materials exist near the upper buffalo pasture. There is space to accommodate the new building here, but the old structure and much equipment would remain at its current location east of town. Equipment would be split among two locations and impacts would resemble those discussed for Alternative C in reduced efficiency, maintenance of two buildings and inventory challenges. This location near the buffalo pasture also would be inconvenient for fisheries crews to access the river. It is located on a hill that is observed from several directions when approaching the area from Glasgow. The aesthetics would be impacted more in this location than in the proposed USACE maintenance compound.

Other physical and human impacts would be minimal, temporary and mitigated similar to those described in the Proposed Alternative B.

Due to the distance from the existing storage area, less secure location, and aesthetic impacts to the immediate area, Alternative D was eliminated from further consideration.

11. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Biological Resources: The area proposed for construction is seeded in common local grasses, primarily crested wheat grass. Because it is a rural area, with little habitat variation and the construction site is a half-acre or less, the project is not expected to displace wildlife.

Weed Management Plan and Aquatic Nuisance Species Management: FWP would cooperate with USACE as needed and could integrate this property into the Regional and Statewide Integrated Weed Management Plan, which manages weeds using mechanical, biological and chemical methods of control. The Region has funding dedicated to weed control. Initial construction may result in minor weed infestations in disturbed areas which would be easily managed by FWP personnel. The overall area open to weed growth would be less due to the concrete cover. State pesticide use laws and regulations would be followed.

Application records would be submitted to the Montana Department of Agriculture as required, and these records are available upon request.

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are an issue in Fort Peck Reservoir and the tail waters. Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) are in the area waters. The facility will provide a clean water source and drainage in an area that provides an adequate buffer from surface water. Use of the facility to wash equipment using potable water will help reduce the potential spread of aquatic nuisance species via fisheries boats and equipment.

Water Quality and Turbidity: No increases to surface water quality or turbidity are anticipated due to the distance of the construction site to the Fort Peck tail waters. FWP and the contractor would adhere to all permitting to minimize impacts due to runoff. The site is surrounded by roads, vegetation and the sewer lagoon. Surfaces around the building and driveway concrete pads would be gravel to enhance water absorption. FWP Design and Construction Bureau would oversee the application of Best Management Practices as directed in contracting documents.

Species of Concern: Fort Peck is a migration route for many birds. Due to the temporary nature of construction, fall construction period, distance of wildlife nesting areas to existing activities and buildings, the project is not expected to have impacts to animal species of concern. There is no virgin ground or native prairie in the project area; it has been planted with domestic grasses.

Riparian, Wetlands and Floodplains: Construction would occur on lands previously disturbed and distant from waterways, thus no impacts to riparian habitat are anticipated. The proposed project would not alter wetlands directly or indirectly. As per Flood Insurance Rate Map, the proposed building location is outside of Special Flood Hazard Areas or flood zones; water quantities and flooding is controlled by Fort Peck Dam immediately upstream of the construction site.

Prime Farmland: This proposed location for the storage building is considered farmland of state importance. It has been used, however, by the USACE since the dam was built in the 1930s. Construction of the proposed building and surrounding use would encompass less than a half-acre. This tract is not likely to be used for farming given the proximity to other maintenance related buildings used by the USACE and small acreage.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

The analysis of the physical and human environments discussed on the following pages is limited to Alternative B, the Preferred Alternative.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	1b.
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c.
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				

- 1a. The proposed property was altered during construction of the Fort Peck Dam in the 1930s. The tract is currently level. Construction will require digging for foundations, water and sewer lines. These cavities will be filled, thus soils will remain stable.
- 1b. Most areas proposed for construction have been disturbed in the past with two track roads, equipment storage, grading or other use. Construction of the storage building would cause minor disruption, compaction and over-covering of soil. Productivity of less than 4000 square feet would be lost due to the building footprint. FWP restricts contractors to the minimum disturbance necessary to complete the project. Best Management Practices recommend that disturbed areas surrounding the project site would be reseeded to minimize moisture loss and erosion.
- 1c. No known unique geological or physical features are present in the area proposed for construction.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				2e.

2a. The Proposed Action would temporarily create minor dust when preparing the site for construction, such as digging to lay the foundation. Additional surface gravel and leveling may cause some minor dust toward the completion of the project. Other air pollutants are not anticipated.

2e. The project is not anticipated to conflict with Federal or State air quality regulations.

3. WATER	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant	
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X			
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X			
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?			X			
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?			X			
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?			X			
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?			X			
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?			X			
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X			
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?			X			
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?			X			
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?			X			
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)			X			3l.
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)			X			3m.

The construction site is in the middle of a large maintenance yard, thus no surface water is near. The surrounding area is gravel or grass, offering a good drainage. The metal building and roof will concentrate runoff to the edges of the building, with gutters directing precipitation to the corners and away from the building. Disturbed areas would be seeded with a local grass mix after construction to speed restoration and reduce potential for erosion. The exposure of people to flood waters will not change; a new storage building will not change the number of people using the area.

The quantity and quality of ground water will not change; other water users or water rights will not be impacted. Potable water will be purchased from the City of Fort Peck. If possible, the building will be heated using a closed loop ground source heating. This been a proven technique for efficient heating systems.

3l. The property is located directly downstream of the Fort Peck Dam which controls water flows through electricity generating turbines. The spillway to release excess water from Fort Peck Reservoir is downstream of the project site several miles. The proposed construction site is not

within a flood zone. The nearby Fort Peck tail waters are identified as Zone A Flood Hazard Areas in which “No Base Flood Elevations [are] determined.” (US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Flood Hazard Boundary Map, Panel 300171 0026 A, Effective February 21, 1978).

3m. No discharges are anticipated. The sewer line will be connected to the City of Fort Peck sewer system and the adjacent waste water treatment plant.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		Yes	4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X			Positive	4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?			X		Yes	4f.

4a/b. Construction of the building and concrete wash aprons would reduce the abundance of grass in the area by about 4000 square feet. This is a previously disturbed area. Construction would be limited to the immediate construction area to minimize impacts. Newly disturbed areas would be reseeded with a local grass mix to minimize the net loss.

4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program’s (MNHP) species of concern database found no vascular or non-vascular plants of significance within a one-mile radius of the property (May 6, 2013).

4e. Ground disturbance during construction of the proposed project could cause a slight, short term increase in noxious weeds. Because disturbed areas would be seeded with local grass mix and the site would be closely monitored by FWP staff, noxious weeds are not expected to spread and would be managed aggressively. FWP has funds dedicated to weed management and has implemented the Statewide and R-6 Weed Management Plans using an integrated approach to control the noxious weeds with chemical, biological and mechanical methods.

FWP has a strong Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) program and works cooperatively with several agencies to prevent their spread and educate the public. Region 6 does have Eurasian watermilfoil, including in Fort Peck Reservoir, the tail waters, and dredge ponds. This is one important reason that the proposed project will be beneficial. Fisheries staff often traverse waters with ANS and it is critical to clean equipment and gear to prevent spreading. Access to city water and a concrete wash apron with appropriate drainage in an innocuous maintenance area will reduce the risk of spreading ANS. Materials with the “Inspect, Clean, Dry” message are posted at nearby public access sites.

4f. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Wetlands Inventory System, wetlands have not been identified in or adjacent to the construction area. The property is surveyed as Havre silty clay

loam and is considered "farmland of statewide importance" by the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service soil map. Approximately half an acre of farmland "of statewide importance" would be converted to building and associated parking, gravel, sidewalks and wash aprons. This lot has not been used for farming in at least eighty years, nor is it likely to be used for farming since it is owned by USACE and used for maintenance related activities.

** 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f.
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		X				5f
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		X				5f.

The proposed project is anticipated to cause no impacts to fish and wildlife species as per discussions described below with by Drew Henry, FWP Region 6 Wildlife Biologist (5/10/13 personal communication with Sue Dalbey), and Tyler Haddix, FWP Region 6 Fisheries Biologist (4/18/13 personal communication with Sue Dalbey). The proposed property is not considered critical habitat for game or nongame species. The project is not expected to impact water quality or quantity; therefore, fish populations are also not expected to be impacted. According to Haddix, this project provides benefits with the ability to adequately and safely clean equipment and reduce the risk of spreading ANS.

A file search by the MNHP identified three species whose occurrence may be within a mile of the project area and have US Fish and Wildlife Service recognition. The nearest Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest is approximately 2 linear miles downstream (northeast). Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) were listed endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1990 and are known to inhabit the Missouri River. The Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a Candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act; the MNHP recorded the nearest presence approximately five miles east of the project site in May 2007.

Eight state species of concern have been sighted in the area according to the MNHP, but are not listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Avian species include the following. The nearest Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*) rookery is over five miles east of the project site. The Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) has been sighted in the tailwaters, approximately 300 yards east. A Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) observation was last recorded in 1979 about 1.5 miles west of the project site. This area has since been partially developed into large lot residential use.

The USFWS lists other species in Valley County, including:

Candidate Species: Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*);

Endangered Species: Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*);

Threatened Species: Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*);

and Recovery Species: Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*).

(Source: http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/countySearch!speciesByCountyReport.action?fips=30105)

Mr. Henry stated that impacts to these species would be negligible due to the current and projected use of the area, lack of current wildlife habitat, and low likelihood of impacts caused by the new building. In addition, construction for the building would occur in the fall; this is outside the potential nesting period for these species and juveniles would be well developed.

The project area shows evidence or the likelihood of incidental use by Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). A Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) nest is active in the Kiwanis Campground, approximately one mile southwest of the project area. Other species that may pass through the area, include pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), a wide variety of songbirds, mice, and perhaps snakes. Activities associated with construction may temporarily displace these species, but Mr. Henry advised that the proposed project would not likely negatively impact these populations.

Mr. Haddix indicated that the proposed building and construction activities would have no negative impacts to aquatic species. The project site is level, with no drainage routes through the property, and gravel surfaces that will absorb precipitation prior to reaching the waterways inhabited by these species. Five fish species were identified by the Natural Heritage Program to occur in the vicinity of the project area, including: Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), Shortnose Gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*), Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), Blue Sucker (*Cyccleptus elongates*), and Sauger (*Sander Canadensis*). These species have a variety of state ranks, but are not identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for concern.

See Appendix B for the list of Species of Concern found by the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

5f. The Bald Eagle nest, Greater Sage Grouse and Pallid Sturgeon are the only species identified by biologists and the Montana Natural Heritage Program within a one mile radius of the proposed project site, which are also listed on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered List. The bird species nesting areas have been identified more than one mile beyond this parcel and impacts due to development are not anticipated due to that distance and construction outside of the nesting period (Henry personal communication to Dalbey, 5/8/13). The project distance from water resources and construction standards would avoid impacts to aquatic species or habitat (Haddix personal communication to Dalbey, 4/18/13). These species may pass through this parcel or occur in the nearby reach of river, but the tract does not provide critical habitat for these species.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a.
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				

- 6a. Noise would increase slightly and temporarily due to truck traffic, backhoe or bobcat type equipment, and hand tool noises related to construction of the proposed building. Construction is expected to last a period of about three months in the fall of 2013 during daylight hours. The construction site is approximately 500 yards from the nearest residences and at a lower elevation. Prevailing west winds would likely carry construction sounds away from residential areas.

The proposed project would have no change in electrical levels and would not interfere with radio or television reception or operation.

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				

The use and function of the Fisheries Storage Building is similar to the use and function of the USACE maintenance buildings in the immediate vicinity. This is not a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific importance. About 149 miles of the Missouri River were designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1976, however; that reach ends far upstream at Robinson Bridge (<http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/missouri-mt.php>). No conflicts are anticipated with current use of the area nor with area residences.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		Yes	8a.
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?			X		Positive	8b.
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X		Yes	8c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X		Yes	8a.

8a. FWP would manage the noxious weeds on the property in accordance with the Statewide and R-7 Weed Management Plans. The plans call for an integrated method of managing weeds, including the use of manual, biological and chemical controls. Application would be in compliance with established guidelines and conducted by trained applicators. Weeds would also be controlled using mechanical or biological means in certain areas to reduce the risk of chemical spills or water contamination. The risk of oil or gas spills due to vehicle and boat access is very low. Precautions are used when maintaining equipment to limit spills and dispose of used oil appropriately at the County Landfill. Restricting vehicles to designated and hardened areas would also limit spills to a small portion of the property.

- 8b. In the remote chance that a fisheries boat or related equipment is needed to assist in an emergency, the proposed building would increase the likelihood that it is available and in good working condition.
- 8c. Chemical spraying is part of FWP's integrated weed management program to manage noxious weeds. Certified professionals would use permitted chemicals in accordance with product labels and as provided for under law.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X			9c.
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?			X			9d.
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				

The storage building is not likely to increase the population or associated traffic, nor change the social structure of the community. Fisheries staff are and will be the primary users of the equipment and facilities upon project completion.

9c. This building construction would provide employment for several workers over a term of about four months: approximately one month would be preparing architectural drawings and planning and about three months of on-the-ground construction. Local and out of area contractors can bid on the project.

9d. Industrial activity would increase slightly and temporarily during site construction, which is expected to last about three months in late summer or fall.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, <u>water supply, sewer or septic systems</u> , solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:			X		Yes	10a.
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				10b.
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: <u>electric power</u> , natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X			10c.
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10c.
e. **Define projected revenue sources						10e.
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.						10f.

- 10a. The storage building would include connections to the Fort Peck City water and sewer systems and paid as per public rates. The City of Fort Peck is pursuing improvements to the waste water treatment system which is located immediately north of the building.
- 10b. Taxes are the responsibility of USACE, since FWP is leasing the land from USACE.
- 10c. The storage building would be designed as a very efficient system, meeting the State High Performance Building Standards. It would use electricity for lights and heating through a ground source heating system. Electrical connections are adjacent to the proposed building.
- 10e. No revenue would be generated from the new storage building.
- 10f. Operations and maintenance costs for this building would total approximately \$1,500 annually for electricity, water, sewer service, and about \$500 for filter changes and routine maintenance (Ken Phillips email to Sue Dalbey 5/6/13). Some additional mowing or weed-eating may be needed around the new building and roadways to reduce fire hazards and present a professional facility. Region 6 fisheries staff would continue to maintain the buildings and equipment currently used and would also be responsible for the new building maintenance, unless specialty contracted services were needed.

** 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X		Yes	11a.
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings?		X				11c.
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				11d.

- 11a. The new storage building would have a minimal impact on the scenic vistas because it is located among other maintenance style buildings. Other buildings in the area are of similar height and in many cases block views of the new building. The street nearest the building is not a frequently traveled route by the public, thus vistas are not greatly impacted. The building will not greatly alter views from Fort Peck residences due to the location of the building among other larger buildings. The structure would have metal siding and roofing with natural or earth tone colors to blend somewhat with the natural surroundings and other nearby structures.
- 11c. The storage building is located in an existing maintenance yard owned and operated by USACE, which is not open to the public for recreation or tourism related activities. The proposed project would not change the quality or quantity of recreation opportunities.
- 11d. No wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas are designated in this area according to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (<http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/missouri-mt.php>).

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12a.)		X				12a.

12a. The project is not anticipated to alter cultural resources. USACE searched their Cultural Resource Database to reveal six documented sites within the proposed project Area of Potential Effect. Two sites are listed or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Fort Peck Dam and Townsite and the Historic Fort Peck Townsite Water Treatment Plant. These are .32 km and 2.14 km respectfully from the proposed project area. USACE and the State Historic Preservation Office agree that the “proposed project will not cause any direct or indirect effects to these eligible and listed properties due to distance, scope and nature of the undertaking. Visual effects on the historic properties will be non-existent due to the tree-lined boundary of the Fort Peck townsite and the distance from the dam.” In addition, it is unlikely that any undiscovered, undisturbed properties exist in the project area due to the modern, urbanized and modified nature of the terrain. Please refer to Appendix C to review the Cultural Resource Review.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *				Can Impact Be Mitigated *	Comment Index
	Unknown *	None	Minor *	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				See 13e.
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.			X			See permits list, Part 1

The site does not provide nor would the building impact critical habitat for any species. Construction would add to the personal income for a several people during construction, and utility payments would benefit the City of Fort Peck, but other economic impacts would be negligible. The social and community impacts would be very minor considering that other buildings would shield the new building from view from many perspectives. Aesthetics of the area have been altered in the past and the proposed building would be built using neutral colors to reduce attraction. The current use of the site and surrounding area as a maintenance yard matches the proposed use of the new building.

Other events in the area include expansion of the Fort Peck Waste Water Treatment Facility which would likely come closer to the storage building than the current treatment facility.

Construction and associated traffic in the area is expected to increase over the next several years while USACE contracts are fulfilled to repair the spillway and other dam associated facilities. In addition, the area is expected to see increased industrial and temporary housing activity if the TransCanada pipeline (KXL) is approved for construction. Short term housing would ship sewage to the treatment facility, which would increase traffic in the vicinity of the fisheries storage building.

Cumulatively, the construction of a storage building is one of many industrial construction projects to occur in the next several years. The small footprint of the proposed building is

small relative to the dam related projects, pipeline and temporary housing proposals. The funds spent to construct the storage building are small compared to the approximately \$40 million to be spent by the USACE repairing the spillway and associated work.

There are several positive effects anticipated from the project. Given the proposed increases in industrial activity and new short-term residents to the area, the need for the proposed storage building is elevated. Improved security of the fisheries equipment would protect the agencies' investments. Securing equipment from vandalism also improves safety of the fisheries crew by reducing the risk of malfunctions while working in moving water.

When considered over the long-term, the proposed improvements offer positive effects to FWP investments in equipment and thus benefit the fish management in the river.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Upon evaluation of both the physical and human environments, the proposed project as described in this document to construct a fisheries storage building near Fort Peck, would have few and minor impacts. The proposal provides more secure storage for fisheries equipment, which would extend equipment life and increase staff safety. Secure and sheltered storage will reduce the number of hours spent repairing equipment. The availability of clean water and appropriate drainage allows for cleaning boats and equipment to reduce the risk of spreading ANS.

When considered over the long-term, this action poses important positive effects due to less time and funds spent on equipment repairs and replacement. The projected increase in traffic, temporary workers and construction in the area over the next several years poses a greater need for keeping equipment secure and safe from vandalism.

Impacts to the natural environment are minor for this small area, given the temporary nature of construction and similar uses over the long term. The proposed project is appropriate for the current and continued use of the area as a maintenance yard for FWP and USACE.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public Involvement:

The public would be notified in the following manner about the proposed action, alternatives and how to comment on this current EA:

- Public Notice in each of these papers: *Glasgow Courier*, *Billings Gazette*, and *Helena Independent Record*;
- Notification mailed directly to interested parties;
- Public notice on the FWP web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.
- Copies will be available for public review at FWP Region 6 Headquarters and Glasgow City/County Library.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope, having minimal physical and human impacts. If requested within the comment period, the department may arrange a public meeting.

2. Duration of comment period

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following publication in area newspapers. Comments will be accepted until **5:00 p.m., August 10 2013** and can be sent to the Region 6 Headquarters:

Fisheries Storage Building
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, R6 Headquarters
54087 Highway 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230

Or email comments to: katsmith@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

No, an EIS is not required. Based on an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment, this environmental review found no significant negative impacts from the proposed action to build a fisheries storage building. In determining the significance of the impacts of the proposed project, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, and the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur. FWP assessed the growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected; any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions; and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. As this EA revealed no significant impacts from the proposed actions, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

2. Persons responsible for preparing this EA:

Ken Phillips, FWP Engineer, Helena
Sue Dalbey, Consultant, Glasgow

3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this EA:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 - Fisheries Bureau
 - Wildlife Bureau
 - Design & Construction Bureau
 - Legal Unit
 - Environmental Assessment Coordinator
- U.S Army Corps of Engineers
- Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Federal Insurance Administration, Flood Hazard Boundary Map
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service – Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – National Wetlands Inventory: riparian and wetland mapping database

4. Sources cited:

Haddix, Tyler, FWP Region 6 Fisheries Biologist; personal communication with Sue Dalbey; discussion of aquatic species in area, species of concern, purpose and need for project, alternatives considered and potential impacts; April 18, 2013.

Henry, Drew, FWP Region 6 Wildlife Biologist; personal communication with Sue Dalbey; discussion of wildlife species in area, species of concern, purpose and need for project, alternatives considered and potential impacts; May 10, 2013.

Montana Natural Heritage Program, *Species of Concern Data Report*, May 6, 2013.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. <http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/missouri-mt.php> May 12, 2013.

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov> , Dawson County, Montana; Survey Area Data Version 13, January 3, 2012.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Insurance Administration, Flood Hazard Boundary Map; Valley County, Montana; Community Panel 300171 0026 A, Effective February 21, 1978.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Endangered Species Query. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/> May 12, 2013.

US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory, www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html, May 12, 2013.

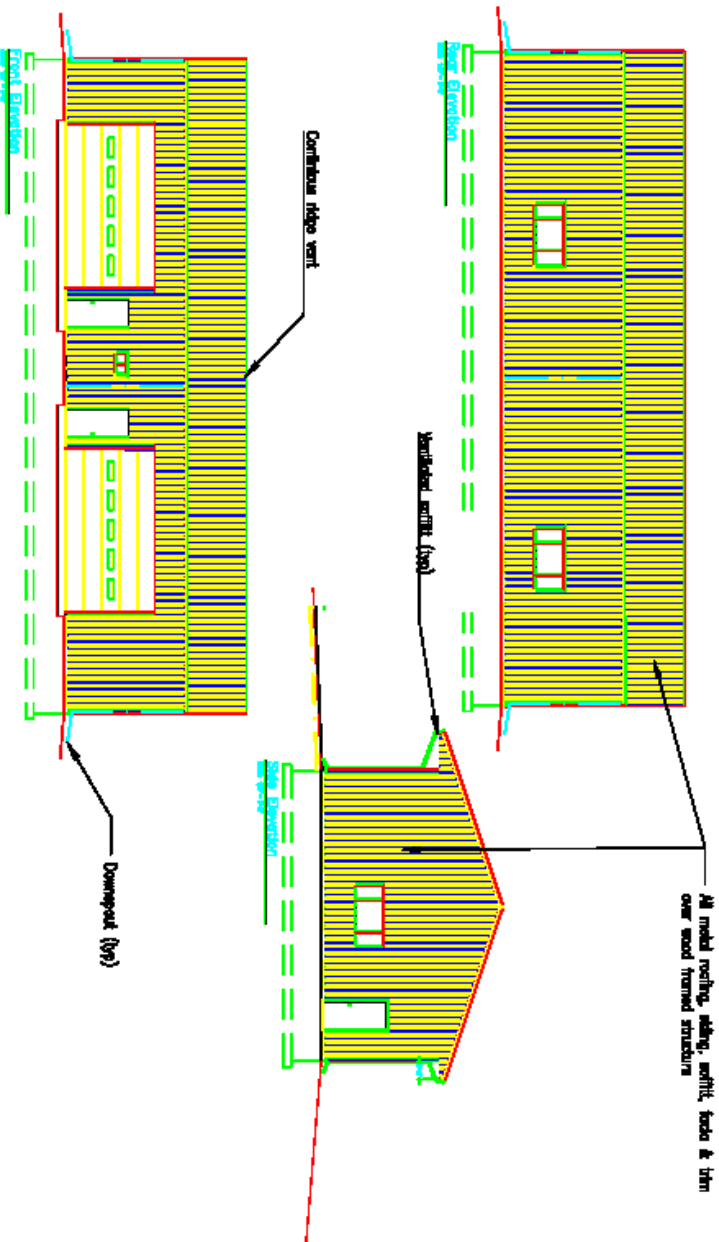
APPENDICES

- A. Storage Building Site Plan, Floor Plan and Elevation Drawings
- B. Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) Native Species Report
- C. US Army Corps of Engineers and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Cultural Resource Review

APPENDIX A

Storage Building Site Plan, Floor Plan and Elevation Drawings
(see next three pages)





All metal roofing, siding, soffits, fascia & trim over wood framed structure

DATE: _____
 DRAWN BY: _____
 CHECKED BY: _____

DATE: _____
 DRAWN BY: _____
 CHECKED BY: _____

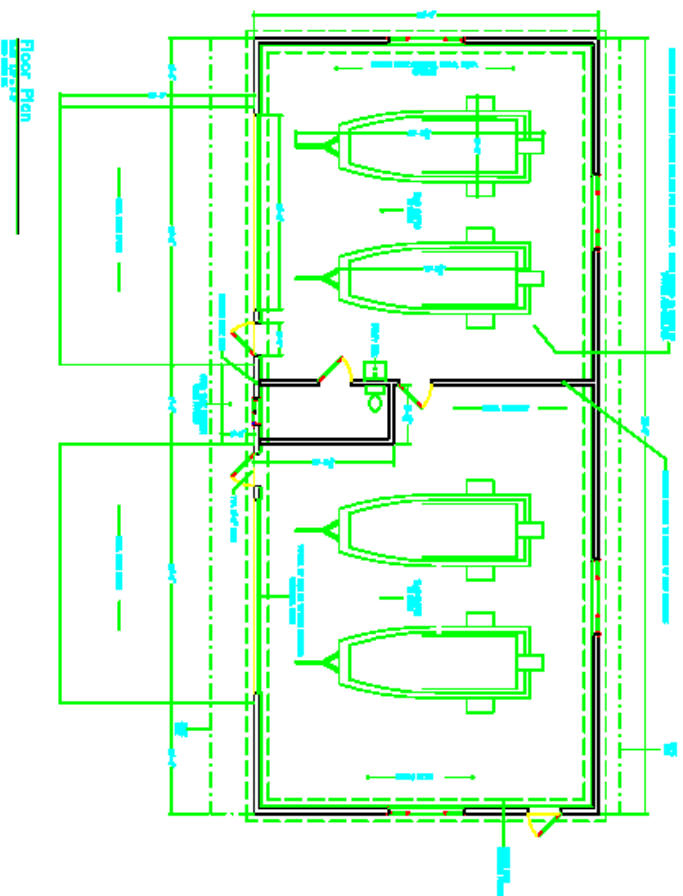
DATE: _____
 DRAWN BY: _____
 CHECKED BY: _____



Montana State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fort Peck Fisheries Shop
 Fort Peck Montana

7053161



Floor Plan
7053161

PROJECT NAME: _____ DATE: _____		REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE: _____		APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____		APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____		 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fort Peck Fisheries Shop		7053161		3 of 3	
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APPENDIX B

Montana Natural Heritage Program Species of Concern Within One Mile of the Proposed Region 6 Fisheries Storage Building (5/6/13)

Species of Concern Terms and Definitions

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) element occurrence database (<http://nris.mt.gov>) indicates no known occurrences of federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered plant species in the proposed project site. The search did indicate the project area is within potential habitat for these species: Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Greater Sage Grouse, Caspian Tern, Burrowing Owl, Pallid Sturgeon, Paddlefish, Shortnose Gar, Lake Trout, Blue Sucker, Sauger. Please see the following pages for more information about these species.

Montana Species of Concern. The term "**Species of Concern**" includes taxa that are at-risk or potentially at-risk due to rarity, restricted distribution, habitat loss, and/or other factors. The term also encompasses species that have a special designation by organizations or land management agencies in Montana, including: Bureau of Land Management Special Status and Watch species; U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and Watch species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species.

▼ **Status Ranks (Global and State)**

The international network of Natural Heritage Programs employs a standardized ranking system to denote global (**G** -- range-wide) and state status (**S**) (Nature Serve 2003). Species are assigned numeric ranks ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure), reflecting the relative degree to which they are "at-risk". Rank definitions are given below. A number of factors are considered in assigning ranks -- the number, size and distribution of known "occurrences" or populations, population trends (if known), habitat sensitivity, and threat. Factors in a species' life history that make it especially vulnerable are also considered (e.g., dependence on a specific pollinator).

Status Ranks

Code	Definition
G1 S1	At high risk because of extremely limited and/or rapidly declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
G2 S2	At risk because of very limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state.
G3 S3	Potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range, and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.
G4 S4	Uncommon but not rare (although it may be rare in parts of its range), and usually widespread. Apparently not vulnerable in most of its range, but possibly cause for long-term concern.
G5 S5	Common, widespread, and abundant (although it may be rare in parts of its range). Not vulnerable in most of its range.

Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Monday, May 6, 2013

Ardea herodias

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Great Blue Heron

General Habitat: Riparian forest

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 6,500 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the areas commonly used for foraging near the breeding colony and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S3
Global: G5

FWP CFWCS Tier: 3

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10017909

First Observation Date: 1991-05-28

SO Number: 663

Last Observation Date: 1991-05-28

Acreage: 32,633

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10017906

First Observation Date: 2009-04-16

SO Number: 758

Last Observation Date: 2009-04-16

Acreage: 32,633

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Bald Eagle

General Habitat: Riparian forest

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 2,000 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the breeding territory and area commonly used for reneesting and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S4
Global: G5

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code: 2

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: DM; BGEPA; MBTA; BCC

U.S. Forest Service: SENSITIVE

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Monday, May 6, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10036074		
First Observation Date:	2006-03-01	SO Number:	960
Last Observation Date:	2007-09-01	Acreage:	3,089

Centrocercus urophasianus

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Greater Sage-Grouse [General Habitat:](#) Sagebrush

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, juveniles, or adults on a lek. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 6,400 meters in order to encompass the latest research on the area used for breeding, nesting, and brood rearing and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S2
[Global:](#) G3G4

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 1

[MT PIF Code:](#) 1

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#) C
[U.S. Forest Service:](#) SENSITIVE

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#) SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10038900		
First Observation Date:	2006-04-10	SO Number:	1,459
Last Observation Date:	2007-05-01	Acreage:	31,636

Hvdroproane caspia

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Caspian Tern [General Habitat:](#) Large rivers, lakes

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Standing water bodies with evidence of nesting buffered by 100 meters in order to reflect importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to breeding success.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S2B
[Global:](#) G5

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 2

[MT PIF Code:](#) 2

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#)
[U.S. Forest Service:](#)

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#)

Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:

Monday, May 6, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10033227		
First Observation Date:	1980-05-09	SO Number:	13
Last Observation Date:	2009-09-10	Acreage:	1,651

Athene cucularia

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Burrowing Owl

[General Habitat:](#) Grasslands

Description: Birds

Mapping Delineation:

Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 2,700 meters in order to encompass the maximum foraging distance reported for breeding adults and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S3B

[Global:](#) G4

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 1

[MT PIF Code:](#) 1

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#)

[U.S. Forest Service:](#) SENSITIVE

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#) SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10036745		
First Observation Date:	1979-03-20	SO Number:	125
Last Observation Date:	1979-09-23	Acreage:	5,631

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10036760		
First Observation Date:	1979-03-20	SO Number:	126
Last Observation Date:	1979-09-23	Acreage:	5,631

Scaphirhynchus albus

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Pallid Sturgeon

[General Habitat:](#) Large prairie rivers

Description: Fish

Mapping Delineation:

Stream reaches where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:

Monday, May 6, 2013

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S1
Global: G2

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: LE

U.S. Forest Service: ENDANGERED

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SPECIAL STATUS

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10046654

First Observation Date:

SO Number:

Last Observation Date:

Acreage: 660

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10046661

First Observation Date:

SO Number:

Last Observation Date:

Acreage: 1,865

Polvodon soathula

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Paddlefish

General Habitat: Large prairie rivers

Description: Fish

Mapping Delineation:

Stream reaches where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S1S2
Global: G4

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10046651

First Observation Date:

SO Number:

Last Observation Date:

Acreage: 660

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10046662

First Observation Date:

SO Number:

Last Observation Date:

Acreage: 1,865



Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Monday, May 6, 2013

Leisosteus platostomus

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Shortnose Gar

[General Habitat:](#) Large prairie rivers

Description: Fish

Mapping Delineation:

Stream reaches where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S1
[Global:](#) G5

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 1

[MT PIF Code:](#)

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#)

[U.S. Forest Service:](#)

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#)

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10046703

First Observation Date:

SO Number:

Last Observation Date:

Acreage: 660

Species Occurrence Map Label: 10046704

First Observation Date:

SO Number:

Last Observation Date:

Acreage: 1,865

Salvelinus namaycush

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Lake Trout

[General Habitat:](#) Deep mountain lakes

Description: Fish

Mapping Delineation:

Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

[State:](#) S2
[Global:](#) G5

[FWP CFWCS Tier:](#) 1

[MT PIF Code:](#)

Federal Agency Status:

[U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:](#)

[U.S. Forest Service:](#)

[U.S. Bureau of Land Management:](#)



Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:
Monday, May 6, 2013

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10046653	SO Number:	
First Observation Date:		Acreage:	660
Last Observation Date:			

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10046663	SO Number:	
First Observation Date:		Acreage:	1,865
Last Observation Date:			

Cycloptus elongatus

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Blue Sucker **General Habitat:** Large prairie rivers
Description: Fish
Mapping Delineation:
Stream reaches where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S2S3
Global: G3G4

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10046656	SO Number:	
First Observation Date:		Acreage:	660
Last Observation Date:			

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10046659	SO Number:	
First Observation Date:		Acreage:	1,865
Last Observation Date:			

Sander canadensis

[View Species in MT Field Guide](#)

Common Name: Sauger **General Habitat:** Large prairie rivers
Description: Fish
Mapping Delineation:



Natural Resource Information System
Montana State Library
PO Box 201000
Helena, MT 59620-1000
(406)458-2020 nri@mt.gov

Species of Concern Data Report

Visit <http://mtnhp.org> for additional information.

Report Date:

Monday, May 6, 2013

Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 50 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on PACFISH/INFISH Riparian Conservation Area standards.

Species Status

[Click Status for Explanations](#)

Natural Heritage Ranks:

State: S2

Global: G5

FWP CFWCS Tier: 1

MT PIF Code:

Federal Agency Status:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

U.S. Forest Service:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management: SENSITIVE

Species Occurrences

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10046652		
First Observation Date:		SO Number:	
Last Observation Date:		Acreage:	660

Species Occurrence Map Label:	10046660		
First Observation Date:		SO Number:	
Last Observation Date:		Acreage:	1,865

APPENDIX C
US Army Corps of Engineers and the
Montana State Historic Preservation Cultural Resource Review



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Branch

2013062403
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102

JUN 18 2013

RECEIVED

JUN 24 2013

BY: SHPO

. STAN
. DOD COE
. Fort Peck
Hatchery
Boat
Storage FWP
Facility,
VL CO

Mr. Stan Wilmoth
State Archaeologist
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
225 North Roberts Street
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Mr. Wilmoth:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has completed a cultural resource review for the following proposed undertaking in Valley County, Montana.

Project Name

Fort Peck Hatchery Boat Storage Facility

CONCUR
MONTANA SHPO
DATE 6/24/13 SIGNED [Signature]

Project Location (Appendix A.1)

Sections 9, Township 26N, Range 41E, Valley County.
U.S.G.S. 7.5" Series Quadrangle: Fort Peck Quadrangle, Montana, (1972).

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to build a 70-foot by 32-foot metal-sided low-pitched "vernacular" style double garage type structure two kilometers (km) northeast of the Fort Peck Dam. The project calls for ground disturbance for building footings and floor. This action is considered an undertaking and the Corps is the lead federal agency. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will match any color scheme required by the Corps.

Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The APE for the proposed project, determined by the Corps' Omaha District Archeologist, comprises a one-mile radius centered on the proposed building site and includes any associated borrow areas, access routes to the project area, and staging areas for equipment used to perform construction activities. Table 1 presents the sites within the APE and eligibility status.

Results of Cultural Resources Review

A search of the Corps' Cultural Resource Database, maps developed for use with Google Earth, and the Corps' report library, revealed six documented sites within the proposed project's APE (Appendix A.1 and A.1.2).

Eligible for listing, or currently listed, in the National Register of Historic Places, two of the six sites present within the APE meet the standards of Criteria A and C. These sites consist of 24VL0590, Fort Peck Dam and the Townsite of Fort Peck, and 24VL1651, Historic Fort Peck Townsite Water Treatment Plant.

Table 1. Sites within the APE

Site Number	Property Type	Eligibility
24VL0590	Fort Peck Dam and the Townsite of Fort Peck	Listed
24VL1627	Historic warehouse and shop buildings	Not Eligible
24VL1628	Railroad Grade	Not Eligible
24VL1651	Historic Fort Peck Townsite Water Treatment Plant	Eligible
24VL1669	Historic Bar and Cafe-Park Grove Bar and Café	Not Eligible
24VL1670	Historic Residence	Not Eligible

24VL0590: The town of Fort Peck, constructed by the United States government in 1934, provided housing, and services for the workers involved in the construction of Fort Peck Dam. The dam itself, constructed between 1933 and 1940 and portions of the townsite, which retain integrity, is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. This site also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or possesses high artistic values. This site has been determined eligible under Criterion A and C and listed in the National Register.

24VL1651: Constructed in 1934 and replaced in 1982, the Fort Peck townsite water-treatment plant retains full integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. Integrity of setting and feeling has been impaired to a moderate extent because of the construction of the present water treatment plant in the near vicinity. This site is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The other four sites are not eligible for listing in the National Register due to significant impaired integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

Determination

NO EFFECT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES. The town of Fort Peck and the Fort Peck Dam lie approximately 0.32 km and 2.14 km, respectfully, from the proposed project area. The proposed project will not cause any direct or indirect effects to these eligible and listed properties due to the distance, scope, and nature of the undertaking. Visual effects on the historic properties will be non-existent due to the tree-lined boundary of the Fort Peck townsite and the distance from the Fort Peck Dam.

The nature of the terrain, modern, urbanized, and modified, makes it unlikely that any undiscovered, undisturbed properties exist in the project area (Appendix A.3). The survey coverage in the immediate vicinity of the project area is extensive due to the ongoing Federal and State maintenance activities. No surveys conducted within the proposed project area have identified any pre contact cultural resources. Based on the negative information provided by the previous surveys in the area, it is the opinion of this office that an intensive survey of the project area would be unnecessary and would create an undue expense for the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Upon receipt of your concurrence, it will be recommended that this project proceed as planned.

Please provide comments no later than July 18, 2013. Comments may be sent to Mr. Matt McCullor, Corps Archeologist, by email at matthew.t.mccullor@usace.army.mil or by mail at:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
PM-AC, Attention: Matt McCullor
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

If you have any questions, please contact Matt McCullor at 402-996-3746.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Brandon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David A. Brandon
Chief, Economics, Cultural Resources, and
Planning Quality Review

Enclosure